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Three-way race for mayor's seat

By **CHELSEA CURTIS**
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

The run for Lake Havasu City Mayor is anticipated to be a three-way race.

Havasu City Councilman Cal Sheehy, contractor Merv Hersam and non-profit founder Nicole Norona have pulled candidate packets for the seat. In mid-January, Norona also pulled a packet for a seat on the City Council but has since decided to focus her attention on a mayoral campaign, according to Lake Havasu City Clerk Kelly Williams.

Sheehy was elected to the City

Council in 2014 as his first term and currently serves as vice mayor. He is also vice president and general manager of the London Bridge Resort.

Norona founded The Norona Effect in 2014, which initially aimed to raise funds for pediatric infusion services in Havasu. The organization's mission changed last year, however, once hospitals began offering pediatric infusion services of their own, and now aims to help foster the development, well-being and social services needs of youth.

Hersam owns Hersam Construction and has been in the contracting business for 30 years.

After 12 years in the role, incum-

bent Mayor Mark Nexsen plans to retire at the conclusion of his four-year term this year. His seat, as well three council positions, will be on the primary election ballot Aug. 28.

City Councilwomen Jeni Coke and Michele Lin have reportedly pulled packets to re-run for their seats, which are up for grabs along with Sheehy. Cori Merryman, Alicia McClane, Charles "Fred" Bennett, Rich Crayne, Jim Dolan, Mark Zieff and Jan Agostaro have also pulled packets for the positions.

Candidate packets will be available until May 30 and must be returned to the city clerk's office between April 30 and May 30, according to Williams.

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

House OKs stun guns, pepper spray at universities

SENATE WILL TAKE UP BILL TO OVERRULE CAMPUS POLICIES ON SELF-DEFENSE

By **HOWARD FISCHER**
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — Students, faculty, staff and visitors are a step closer to being able to carry some kinds of weapons on the campuses of public colleges and universities.

HB 2172, approved by the House Thursday on a 35-23 vote, is designed to provide new options for self-defense. It specifically would overrule existing policies at the state's three universities that now make over-the-counter pepper spray the only type of weapon permitted.

The legislation, which now goes to the Senate, also would trump no-weapons policies at community colleges.

The Arizona Board of Regents, which oversees the state's three public universities, last week revised policies to clarify that students could carry all common chemical sprays and alarms. But the policy still bans stun guns, Tasers and most other non-lethal weapons. The Board of Regents and several community colleges oppose the legislation.

What would now be allowed under the bill is not spelled out in the text of the legislation. Instead, the measure would permit "non-lethal weapons," defined as those "explicitly designed and developed to incapacitate or repel a person with a low probability of fatality or permanent injury."

Rep. Ken Clark, D-Phoenix, said that lack of definition — and of limits — is dangerous. He told colleagues the Department of Defense defines "non-lethal weapons" to include flash grenades "which you can buy online for about \$50" and 40 mm blunt force munitions, "all of which are designed to be used by trained personnel, and at a distance."

Rep. Travis Grantham, R-Gilbert, said he deliberately kept it vague to allow for forms of self-defense that may not currently exist, like devices designed to incapacitate through light or sound.

What definitely would be allowed are electronic stun guns that can fire a dart into someone else and deliver a jolt of electricity. In fact, the lobbyist for Taser International testified in favor of the measure when it was approved last month by the House Education Committee.

Grantham also wants to allow people on campuses to carry more powerful defense sprays than university policies now permit. He said those policies specifically exclude devices that contain what he believes is a sufficient quantity of chili pepper oils to disable an attacker.

Clark also pointed out that final version of HB 2172 exempts "private postsecondary institution that receives any type of public monies for any purpose." Grantham that exemption.

"This isn't the kind of legislation that we call tell private property or landowners what they're going to do with their private institution," he said, any more than the state can tell owners of bars or restaurants that they have to permit patrons to have the same devices.

GREEN SPACE: CYPRESS PARK NEARS COMPLETION



Lake Havasu City residents will soon be able to enjoy Cypress Park. Featuring soccer fields, playground equipment, walking paths and restrooms, among other amenities, the park is expected to be complete early-March. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the park will be held at 10 a.m. on March 14, announced Jess Knudson during Tuesday's City Council meeting.

Feds urge court to reject Arizona attempt to deny drivers licenses to 'Dreamers'

By **HOWARD FISCHER**
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — Attorney General Mark Brnovich is getting no help from the Trump administration in his last-ditch bid to deny driver's licenses to "dreamers."

In fact, the Department of Justice is urging the U.S. Supreme Court to reject his plea. Instead, Noel Francisco, the federal solicitor general, is telling the justices that they should let stand a ruling by the 9th

Circuit Court of Appeals which voided the Arizona policy.

He said there is reason to believe that the appellate court reached the correct conclusion based on the evidence before it — and that Arizona is legally wrong.

The legal merits of the case aside, Francisco said that Arizona appears to be the only state in the country that has decided those in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program

are not entitled to licenses.

Given that, he said there is no reason for the nation's high court to step in.

Anyway, Francisco said, Trump already has announced he will be rescinding the 2012 policy established by his predecessor that allows those who arrived in this country illegally as children to both remain without fear of deportation and gives them Employment Authorization Documents allowing them to work legally while they

are here.

If DACA goes away, he said, the number of Arizona dreamers eventually will dwindle to nothing

Francisco acknowledged the president's decision to kill the program is being challenged. But he told the justices that there is no reason for them to even consider whether the Arizona policy is legal until they decide whether to hear that other case.

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Courtesy photo
Desert Hills firefighter Kurt Fowler is shown with his wife, Trina, left, and their children.

LAS VEGAS SHOOTING

Fowler still recovering; fundraiser planned

By **CHELSEA CURTIS**
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

While attending a country music festival in Las Vegas more than four months ago, Desert Hills firefighter Kurt Fowler was shot in the leg protecting his wife from gunfire during what is now considered the most deadly mass shooting in American history.

Having gone through a second surgery a little over two weeks ago, Fowler says it feels as though his road to recovery is starting back over.

"They had to redo both of the bones in my leg, my tibia and fibula, do a bone graft for my pelvis and put another plate in my leg," he said. "This surgery is the surgery I should have had initially... (and) with the amount of people that were they were intaking at those hospitals, they did what they could with the time frame they had to work with and they hoped for the best, but in the long run the doctor had to do a more extensive surgery."

Since that tragic day, Fowler — a husband and father of three — has absorbed all his paid time off hours from work and is currently on leave without pay. And although he has not personally had to pay medical bills as of yet, the bills are still coming in.

That's why fundraisers, such as an upcoming "Fowler Family Fun Day," mean the world to the family. The event is scheduled for March 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at SARA Park Rodeo Grounds.

"We have to take care of each other and if we don't, who's going to do it?" said Laurie Rodriguez, event organizer who, until last November, was a complete stranger to the family. "They are just a very nice family that something bad happened too and it can happen to any of us at any time."

The cash-only event will feature activity booths, for which tickets to participate will be sold at

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